

Position Paper

POLYETHYLENE AND OXIDIZED POLYETHYLENE WAXES FOR FOOD CONTACT APPLICATIONS

This is an update on the regulatory status of polyethylene waxes (PM Ref 80000) and oxidized polyethylene waxes (PM Ref 80077) when used in plastic materials and articles in contact with food.

In the EU, polyethylene waxes and oxidized polyethylene waxes are listed in the Synoptic document, SCF List 7. Currently, the major producers and members of EWF have formed a Common Interest Group to work and fulfill the registration requirements on these substances. The dossiers have been submitted to the EU Commission and EFSA services for evaluation. It is anticipated that polyethylene waxes and oxidized polyethylene waxes will be included in the additives “positive list” of the plastics directive (2002/72/EC as amended) by 1 January 2005. In the meantime, national legislation on food packaging in the EU member states remains in force.

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January 2004